

PUNJAB STATE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
SITE NO. 3, BLOCK B, SECTOR 18-A MADHYA MARG, CHANDIGARH

Petition No. 46 of 2024
Date of Hearing: 18.02.2025
Date of Order: 19.02.2025

Petition under Regulation 19, 20 and 21 of Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (Power Quality) Regulations, 2023 and Regulation 69, 70, 71 & 72 of Chapter XIII of the Conduct of Business Regulations 2005 for allowing time extension to designated consumers without penalty/ compensation for the installation of Power Quality Meters and for allowing time extension to designated consumers for exercising option for installation of PQ meters through PSPCL by paying monthly meter rental.

And

In the matter of: Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, The Mall,
Patiala, Punjab.

...Petitioner

Versus

1. Steel Furnace Association – Punjab (Chapter), C/O Vardhman Special Steels Limited, C-58, Phase-III, Focal Point, Ludhiana, Punjab-141010.
2. Mandi Gobindgarh Induction Furnace Association, (REGD.) Grain Market, Mandi Gobindgarh, Punjab-147301
3. Apex Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Room No. 204, 2nd Floor, Savitri Complex- I, G.T. Road, Ludhiana-141003.

...Respondents

Commission: Sh. Viswajeet Khanna, Chairperson
Sh. Paramjeet Singh, Member

PSPCL: Sh. J.S. Jammu, CE/Metering (through VC)
Sh. Ajay Bansal, Dy./CE/TR-2
Sh. Rajesh Kumar
Sh. Damanjit Singh
Sh. Vivek Goel, Addl. SE
Sh. Pawan Kumar

Apex Chamber of
Commerce and
Industries: None

Mandi Gobindgarh
Induction Furnace
Association: None

Vardhman Textiles
Limited.: None

ORDER

The petition was taken up for hearing. Chief Engineer (CE)/Metering, PSPCL representing PSPCL submitted that the tender enquiry in progress for procurement of power quality meters was dropped and a fresh tender enquiry for the same would be issued on 19.02.2025. CE/Metering is directed to confirm the issuance of the tender enquiry along with complete timelines of the procurement and installation of Power Quality meters. The Commission pointed out that PSPCL has now submitted an affidavit that 652 nos. applications for rental options were received before 15.03.2024, whereas the same was intimated as 177 nos. vide Para 3(B) of the petition and also vide PSPCL earlier email/memo dated 14.06.2024 and 11.09.2024. PSPCL has now attributed this discrepancy to the procedural lapses. The reasons of furnishing contradictory information to the Commission be intimated by PSPCL. However, the procedure was well-defined by PSPCL vide Sr.No.5 of their Commercial Circular no. 01/2024 dated 05.02.2024. Thus, the action taken by PSPCL against the delinquent officers/officials for the aforementioned procedural lapses may be intimated. In view submission by CE/Metering during the hearing that the matter related to the CE/Commercial, the Commission directs PSPCL to ensure the physical presence of CE/Metering and CE/Commercial in the next hearing.

Further, vide Regulation 13.4 of the Power Quality Regulations, the applicants covered under the category of designated consumer seeking new connections/extension in load shall install PQ meters before release of new connection/extension of load. PSPCL has now intimated on affidavit that new connection/extension of load in 177 nos. such cases was done without PQ meters due to non-availability PQ meters in metering labs. However, the Power Quality meters in such cases were to be procured and get installed by the consumer. Such irresponsible/irrelevant reply of PSPCL is not acceptable. Accordingly, PSPCL is directed to explain the reason for non-installation of Power Quality meters in such cases and the action taken against the delinquent officers/officials for violation of the Regulations.

Further, as per the first proviso to Regulation 13.8 *ibid*, PSPCL was also directed that the accounts of the designated consumer who had already

opted for General Category tariff, be overhauled retrospectively by making the refund along with the interest @ MCLR for one year of the SBI as applicable on the first April of the financial year for which interest is payable. However, vide their memo no. 5169 dated 31.01.2025, PSPCL has not intimated any details in this regard except intimating that the instructions have been given to the offices for compliance of the directions of PSERC. The reasons for intimating the above details along with the latest status of overhauling the accounts of such consumers be intimated alongwith the latest number of designated consumers who have opted for general category tariff.

PSPCL is directed to submit a comprehensive response to the aforementioned directions on affidavit well before the next date of hearing.

The petition shall be taken up for hearing on 28.02.2025 at 11:30 A.M.

Sd/-
(Paramjeet Singh)
Member

Sd/-
(Viswajeet Khanna)
Chairperson

Chandigarh
Dated: **19.02.2025**